



**Revolution: America**  
**History – Junior Cert**  
**Quick Notes**

# Revolution: America

France, Britain and Spain all set up colonies in America. The settlers in these colonies drove out the native population of Indians. In 1756, a war broke out between the British colonists and the French and Indians. This became known as the French and Indian War or The Seven Years War. Britain sent over large numbers of troops called Redcoats to assist the colonists. The colonists had won by 1763, after Britain having spent £101.5 million on the war in total.

Following the war, the British taxed the colonies on the vast amounts of tobacco, grain and fish that they sold. The Stamp Act of 1765 placed taxes on a wide range of items, including legal documents, wills and newspapers. The colonists, however, were not happy with these restrictions. Samuel Adams formed the Sons of Liberty in Boston, Massachusetts and they adopted the slogan 'No taxation without representation', because the colonists could not elect representatives to the British parliament. The Boston Massacre occurred in March 1770. British soldiers killed five and wounded seven as a crowd jeered at them. All taxes were removed, except those on tea. In 1773, tea ships belonging to the British East India Company arrived in Boston and colonists dressed as Indians, boarded the ships and poured the tea overboard. The British responded by closing Boston to all trade.

The First Continental Congress met in Philadelphia in 1774 where 12 colonies met. The American War of Independence was considered to begin with the Battle of Concord in 1775. 73 British and 49 colonists were killed. The second congress met later that year where the Declaration of Independence was drawn up. George Washington was appointed as commander-in-chief of the colonist forces in June 1775. Later that month, Washington lost the Battle of Bunker Hill but inflicted huge losses on the British.

In October 1777, America, led by General Gates won the Battle of Saratoga. During the Winter of 1777, the American forces stayed at Valley Forge. The next year, France joined the war on America's side. The Netherlands also joined later. A series of American victories in 1780 led to the British army being trapped in Virginia, and the British troops, led by Cornwallis, were forced to surrender on 19 October 1781. Peace talks were then held at Versailles, outside Paris. The two sides signed the Treaty of Versailles, in which Britain

recognised the colonies' independence. In 1787, a convention was held at Philadelphia to draw up a written constitution. The United States of America was established.

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